**Minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting**
**of Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

**September 13, 2001**

**The monthly meeting of Seminary Hill Association, Inc. was held on September 13, 2001**
**at the Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia.**

**The following SHA officers were present:**

**Bill Dickinson, President**
**Joe Gerard, Vice President**
**Jack Sullivan, Treasurer**
**R. Mark Quave, Secretary**
**Joseph Fischer, At Large**
**Lillian Patterson, Area 1**
**Pat Liddy, Area 7**
**Tom Kerester, Area 2**
**Dick Hobson, Area 3**
**Bill Coates, Area 9**
**Dan Kelly, Area 4**

**Officers absent:**

**Nell Vetter, At Large Director**
**Frank Putzu, Area 8**
**Dick Hayes, Area 5**
**William Hayes, Area 6**
**Buck Coates, Area 9**
**Bruce McCarthy, At Large**
**Maggie Melson, Special Director**
**Mary Hixs, Special Director**

**Bill Dickinson, President, called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. He led a minute of silence for the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks on America. Mr. Dickinson introduced the Board of Directors to the audience, and recognized Mr. Howard Middleton, an Alexandria-based attorney representing INOVA Alexandria Hospital.**

**Joe Fischer, SHA At Large Director and Chairman of the SHA INOVA Alexandria Hospital Task Force, was the first keynote speaker of the evening. Mr. Fischer, reported on the progress of the task force. The task force and INOVA Alexandria, represented by Howard Middleton, has agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mr. Fischer said the next step was for the members of the task force to present the MOU to neighbors in the vicinity of the hospital for their reaction. He thought this would take until September 21st. The next step, Mr. Fisher suggested, would be for the SHA Board to meet in a special session to approve the MOU. Jack Sullivan, member of the task force, provided the Board with an overview of the MOU, which includes an SHA endorsement for the development plans of the hospital in exchange for green space buffers and additional assurances to protect the privacy of the neighbors. Mr. Fischer did not want to provide a public copy of the MOU until the task force was able to receive an endorsement from the neighbors most affected.**

**Jack Sullivan made a motion to hire attorney Barbara Beach to review the MOU and track the progress of the MOU through the City. The motion included a cap of $2,500 for the services. The motion passed unanimously. It is expected that neighbors would pay ½ of the legal bill, though the Board acknowledged there is no way to enforce this expectation.**

**Mr. Dickinson took an action to set-up the special Board meeting.**

**The second keynote speakers of the evening were Kerry and Art Meushaw, developers of the Grant property at 1100 Francis Hammond Parkway. Mr. Dickinson, in his introduction of the speakers, provided a background on the subject which is well documented in the June minutes and June email weekly report.**

**Mr. Art Meushaw said the sub division hearing with the City has been deferred until the October planning commission meeting. He affirmed that the Meushaws own the property and that Mr. Grant, the previous owner, is no longer involved. Mr. Art Meushaw said that he was requesting that the two R-12 zoned-properties, which are currently subdivided into two lots, be re-subdivided into two lots in a different manner to facilitate a better positioning of the two homes he intends to build by-right. He showed plans of the two homes he will build and demonstrated to the neighbors of property who were in attendance at the Board meeting, that he had taken their suggestion and decreased the size of the homes he would build. When asked, Mr. Meushaw said it was not economical to build one home on the property instead of two, and that if the re-subdivision was not approved that he would build two homes on the property anyway, but that the orientation of the properties would be less appealing.**

**The minutes of the June 14, 2001 Board meeting were approved.**

**Jack Sullivan, in his Treasurer’s Report, said that the balance of the SHA checking account is $3,877.28 and balance of the SHA savings account is $5,497.00.**

**Mr. Dickinson reported that the SHA membership was 205, and approved a special new member discount that would allow new members to join the SHA in 2001 & 2002 for $20 total.**

**Area Reports**

* **In Area 3, Mr. Hobson reported that a Dartmouth Equity home recently resold for more than $900,000.**
* **In Area 4, Dan Kelly reported that the Goodman widow does not want the road into the Goodman development named after her late husband. After a brief discussion, it was suggested that members could forward road name recommendations to the developer.**
* **In Area 6, Mr. Dickinson reported that area representative Bill O’Neill must leave the Board due to personal reasons.**
* **In Area 7, Pat Lidy said that property owners were going to proactively seek the City’s assistance in development planning in the Ivor Lane neighborhood in the northeast section of that area. The homes there are on septic and the City holds a road easement for continuation of Pickett Street. Also there is an open space buffer between Ivor Lane and Seminary Forest Apartments.**
* **In Area 8, Joe Gerard reported that the Francis Hammond School construction was on schedule.**

**Old Business**

* ***SHA Position on the re-subdivision of the two R-12 properties at 1100 Francis Hammond Parkway.* After some discussion of the matter with neighbors in the area, the Board approved a motion to send the City a letter requesting that the October re-subdivision hearing be deferred until it could be determined if the current R-12 zonings are legitimate. Furthermore, the Board would suggest to the City that the re-subdivision of the properties would facilitate the a development project that is inconsistent with the essential character of the existing community.**
* ***Pornographic Sites Letter.* Mr. Dickinson reported that the City’s lawyer had drafted legislation that would prohibit commercial pornography in the vicinity of public schools and residential neighborhoods. This action followed an SHA-endorsed letter written by Frank Putzu to the Mayor recently.**

**New Business**

* ***Eisenhower/Duke Task Force Hearing.* There should be concern, Mr. Dickinson said, that the task force may be leaning toward the Bluestone Connector option. This option connects Eisenhower to Duke Street in the vicinity of Generous George’s Restaurant, and this option has been vigorously opposed by the SHA in the past.**
* ***Developments at Episcopal High School.* It is believed that the High School is considering the demolition of an existing, possibly historic, building and the construction of a new alumni facility. The consensus of the Board was that we should generally provide support to the High School and the Virginia Theological Seminary because they provide an immense benefit to our community in terms of open, green space and active community support. The Board will ask Special Directors Maggie Melson and Mary Hixs for an update of the situation.**
* ***SHA Newsletter:* Joe Gerard and Jack Sullivan volunteered to help with the publication of an upcoming SHA newsletter.**
* ***Plans for the SHA annual meeting.* Joe Gerard agreed to call Ms. Hixs to determine if space is available at VTS for a meeting prior to Thanksgiving in November. Eillene Fogarty of City Planning was recommended to be the keynote speaker.**
* ***Candidates for VA House of Delegates Debate.* The Board passed a motion to provide $100 to the sponsors of the debate.**

**The September Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.**
**Respectfully Submitted:**
**R. Mark Quave, Secretary**